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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 001908

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASEC PGOV SNAR KCRM KJUS HO

SUBJECT: RSO COORDINATES WITH HONDURAN AUTHORITIES IN MS-13  
OPERATION THAT ARRESTS OVER 162 GANG MEMBERS IN RAID.

Summary: RSO Tegucigalpa in coordination with local authorities participated in a five nation police effort against the Mara Salvatrucha-13 gang (MS-13). Local operations, which were conducted in six Honduran cities, led to the arrest of over 162 local gang members. RSO Tegucigalpa directed planning and operational meetings with local authorities in the weeks before the operation. During the operation Honduran authorities arrested one gang member that was involved in the recent murder of DEA agent Timothy Markey. The Honduran law enforcement also seized six firearms, crack, marijuana and cocaine, over USD700, two motorcycles and two cars. This operation was part of the FBI MS-13 Task Force which has targeted this international gang in an effort to totally eradicate it from the United States and Latin America. End Summary.

¶1. On September 7, 2005 RSO coordinated with Honduran law enforcement authorities in an operation that targeted MS-13 gang members. Honduran authorities conducted raids in six Honduran cities where MS-13 operated. Honduran authorities hailed this effort as a success as they arrested 162 gang members. Some of the arrested were from Guatemala and El Salvador. local authorities also claimed that one of the gang members arrested was involved in the murder of DEA agent Timothy Markey. This person is accused of aiding and harboring the two suspected murderers of Markey.

¶3. Honduran officials seized six firearms, over 15 vials of crack, six grams of cocaine and an unknown amount of marijuana. The locals also seized two motorcycles and two vehicles, including a taxi, that MS-13 was using. Honduran officials gathered vital intelligence and will follow up on other investigative leads that the operation generated.

¶4. This operation was part of Diplomatic Security Service continued participation in the FBI MS-13 Task Force. The overall operation was deemed a success in Honduras with the hope of future operations to further the fight against this dangerous menace that effects Central America and the United States.

¶5. POC for this cable is ARSO Bill Stowell  
Williard